



United States Board on Geographic Names

*Standardizing Geographic Names for
the Federal Government for 130 Years*



Looking south in Alpine County, California: A view of Da-ek Dow Go-et Mountain and Sentinel Rock, two geographic features in the Mokelumne Wilderness of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. "Da-ek Dow Go-et" means "saddle between points" and describes the summit's shape, according to the Woodfords Community, a constituent band of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. The Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) and the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names both stated that the Sentinel Rock proposal warranted an exception to the Wilderness Act of 1964, citing the need to make official the name, "Sentinel Rock," for the volcanic feature that was unofficially named more than a century ago. The two names were a Domestic Names Committee decision from July 2020.



**Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report to
Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt**
Washington, DC



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Contributors to the BGN Annual Report

The BGN Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020 was made possible by contributions from
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BGN Annual Report designer and editor: Brenda-Anne “B.C.” Forrest (GPO).

Cover photography: Tim Berger; Flickr website.



Mission Statement and Introduction

The United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN), on behalf of the Federal Government, approves new and revised names of geographic features, following the standardization guidelines developed by the BGN. These names are the official names to be used on Federal maps and in Federal publications for geographic features in domestic, foreign, Antarctic, and undersea regions.

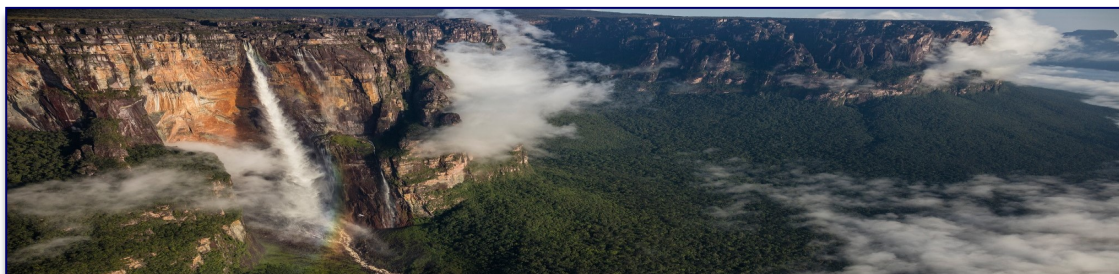
Members of the BGN are from the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, the Interior, and State, as well as the Central Intelligence Agency, the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, and the Postal Service, each of which align with the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), the Foreign Names Committee (FNC), or both. The head of each department and agency represented on the BGN appoints one principal member and may also designate one or more deputy members. All members serve two-year terms and may be reappointed to unlimited successive terms.

By working conjointly with the Secretary of the Interior (SOI), the BGN reduces duplication of work, personnel, and authority among its member agencies to foster clear and unambiguous communication within the Federal Government.

The BGN is recognized as a model of international coordination and cooperation with country names authorities, State names authorities, Tribes, and local communities, as well as with international bodies that promote geographic names standardization.

In this age of geographic information systems, the internet, and homeland defense, geographic names are even more important and more challenging. Applying the latest technology, the BGN continues its mission to serve the Federal Government and the public as a central authority to which inquiries and problems regarding current names can be addressed and proposals for new names and name changes can be submitted.

The following pages tell the story of the significant work that the Standing Committees, Advisory Committees, and Special Committees have performed over the past year and reflects the effort that goes into the toponymic process.



Looking southwest in Bolívar State, Venezuela: A view of Angel Falls, the world's highest waterfall, reaching 3,212 feet, located in Canaima National Park. The BGN's Foreign Names Committee approved "Angel Falls" as a conventional name, "Salto Ángel" as a Spanish name, and "Kerepakupai Vená" as a Pemon name in a December 2019 decision.



Domestic Names Committee

The Domestic Names Committee (DNC) standardizes the names of geographic features within the United States and its sovereign areas. During FY20, Mr. Michael Karau of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) served as Chair of the DNC, Ms. Susan Lyon of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers served as Vice Chair, and Mr. Glenn A. Guempel of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) acted as Executive Secretary. The DNC receives research and database support from the USGS.



Looking northeast in Deschutes County, Oregon: A view of the newly named Qdai Dome (shown in the foreground highlighted by the sun), a 6,960-foot postglacial rhyolite dome formed 1,300 years ago and located in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument of the Deschutes National Forest. The name "Qdai" translates as "rock" in the language of the Klamath Tribes of Oregon and was one of 26 new name proposals for unnamed geographic features in and around Newberry National Volcanic Monument that were individually submitted to the Domestic Names Committee. All 26 new name proposals were approved in one "bundled" DNC decision from July 2020. Photograph by John Pallister.

Actions

The DNC met 11 times in FY20; beginning with its March meeting, the DNC met virtually. The DNC's four Quarterly Review Lists comprised 216 new name and name change proposals. In FY20, the DNC considered 160 proposals, of which 133 new names and changes were approved, and 27 were disapproved.

Continued on the next page.



Domestic Names Committee, continued

Activities

The DNC staff participated in the first meeting of the newly formed Colorado Geographic Names Advisory Board on September 17, 2020; the attendees reviewed the list of proposals pending in Colorado, including efforts to change names that may be considered offensive.

The DNC staff gave presentations on the BGN and its policy on Tribal Geographic Names to the Office of Tribal Relations of both the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Forest Service. The DNC has seen an increase in interest within Indian Country regarding the application of Native American names to geographic features; the DNC continues to evaluate ways to improve communication with Tribal governments.

Following the DNC's approval in FY19 of 25 new names for features in and around the Newberry National Volcanic Monument in Oregon, an additional 26 names were approved in FY20. These new names are of Native American origin, having been suggested by American Indian Tribes with a cultural affiliation in the area (photograph shown on page 4).

The DNC approved a proposal to change the name of Mount Discovery, a summit in Adirondack Park in New York, to Mount Inez; the new name honors Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain (1886–1916), lawyer, feminist, and suffragist (photograph, at right, by Edmonston, ca. 1913). The proposal was submitted in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



The DNC approved a proposal to change the name of Jeff Davis Peak in California to Da-ek Dow Go-Et Mountain, a name from the Washoe Indian language.

The DNC staff is revising the geographic name proposal form (online and conventional) in an effort to make submissions more complete, and is also establishing a process to vet proposals that are lacking in details or justification prior to the staff's review process.

In November 2019, DNC staff participated in a meeting between the BGN and the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (PCGN), held at various locations in London, United Kingdom. The DNC staff presented papers on changing offensive names and the DNC policy on Tribal consultation.

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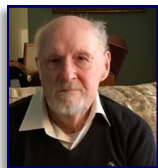
Domestic Names Committee, continued

Issues

DNC staff continues to respond to inquiries from interested parties, including local, State, Federal, and Tribal agencies, the general public, and the media regarding the BGN's policies and procedures for submitting new name and name change proposals. FY20 saw an increased focus on the issue of changing geographic names that are considered offensive to a particular racial or ethnic group, gender, or religious group.

There has been some media interest in a name change for the ski resort at Squaw Valley, California; this change would apply to the “administrative” feature, which is not under BGN purview. There is some local usage of the name Olympic Valley for the associated natural feature but the official name remains Squaw Valley and no proposal has been received to change that name.

Due to ongoing concerns regarding COVID-19, a number of State Geographic Names Authorities canceled their meetings in 2020, which delayed the DNC's review of pending proposals. The Council of Geographic Names Authorities' (COGNA) annual meeting, scheduled to take place in Portland, Oregon, in June was also cancelled.



Recognition

Mr. Donald J. Orth, former DNC Executive Secretary, passed away on October 30, 2019. Mr. Orth compiled the “Dictionary of Alaska Place Names” and BGN's “Diary of Actions, Policies, and Events: 1890–1990” (photograph, at left, from the National Park Service, 2017).

Database of the Domestic Names Committee

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is the official database for federally approved domestic names. The GNIS staff completed 16,959 modifications to records in the database. GNIS staff also continues the collection of ridge, range, summit, valley, and arroyo landform features in U.S. Forest Service areas. GNIS staff continues to respond to inquiries from Tribal, Federal, State, and local officials and the general public.

GNIS staff worked with the U.S. Census Bureau to add and update records in the database ahead of the 2020 Census.

Progress has been made on the development of new tools to replace the current suite for GNIS. This has been a major effort in previous years that will be completed in FY21.

To begin a feature search in the GNIS database of the USGS, please visit <https://usgs.gov/geonames/domestic-names>.



Foreign Names Committee

The Foreign Names Committee (FNC) standardizes names for geographic features located outside the United States and its sovereign areas, as well as the names of oceans and seas. Mr. Trent Palmer of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) served as Executive Secretary for Foreign Names during FY20. A new Chair of the FNC was elected during the fiscal year. FY20 began with Mr. Leo Dillon of the Department of State (DOS) serving as the Chair of the FNC. Mr. Dillon was succeeded by Mr. Marcus Allsup of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in June 2020. Ingrid K. of the Central Intelligence Agency served as Vice Chair of the FNC. The FNC receives research and database support from the staff of the NGA.

Actions

The FNC met four times in FY20 and considered and approved 46 staff recommendations. The Foreign Names staff at NGA developed, and the FNC approved, 10 country policies: Albania, Belarus, Belgium, Cook Islands (New Zealand), Kosovo, Lithuania, Morocco, Pakistan, Syria (update), and Vatican City.



Looking southwest in the Northern Territory, Australia: Uluru/Ayers Rock is a giant monolith of red rock composed of the sandstone arkose, located in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park. The red color is the rusting of the iron in arkose, originally grey in color. Geologists believe it began forming 550 million years ago. For thousands of years, Uluru has been a sacred ancestral place for the Aboriginal people, the Anangu, and is referred to as both "Uluru" and "Ayers Rock." The Foreign Names Committee approved the place name "Uluru/Ayers Rock" in a June 2020 decision, making this geographic feature the first in the Northern Territory to be given dual names. Photograph by Tourism Australia.

Country policies are reference documents that comprehensively address the linguistic and political situations affecting place name collection in a specific country. Additionally, the committee approved a new BGN Statement on the Names of the Provinces of Nepal and an updated BGN statement on the Persian Gulf.

Continued on the next page.



Foreign Names Committee, continued

Activities

One of the highlights of the year was the 33rd BGN/PCGN Conference held November 18–22, 2019, in London. The BGN's British partner, the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN) celebrated its centenary in 2019 and hosted the conference to celebrate the occasion. Topics discussed included Azerbaijan, Burma, the romanization of place names of North Korea, and the romanization of Neo-Tifinagh script, Sinhala, and Tamil. Agreements were reached on the romanization of Arabic, Hebrew, and Persian. A provisional agreement was reached on the romanization of Ukrainian, which was approved by the FNC in March 2020.

In FY20 the Foreign Names staff at NGA continued to seek opportunities to raise awareness and promote its work in support of the BGN. In August, the NGA Director called attention to the importance of geographic names standardization in a Director's email (D-Mail) message.

Issues



As mentioned above, one of the most significant actions in FY20 was the adoption of the Ukrainian national system of romanization. Discussions on the topic had continued for almost a decade, as the Committee and the PCGN evaluated the options and monitored implementation of the national system within

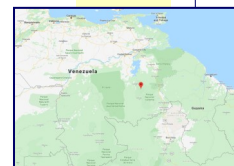
Ukraine. Several policy discussions were launched during the year, including conventional names, dual names, and names established by other bodies. Another issue handled by the Committee is the monitoring of changes in the administrative structures of nations worldwide. In FY20, significant changes occurred or were addressed by the FNC for Estonia, India, Norway, and Uganda.

Database of the Foreign Names Committee

The GEOnet Names Server (GNS), hosted on the NGA website, is the single source for federally approved foreign names. At the end of FY20, it contained 13.17 million names associated with 8.04 million features. In FY20, 102,304 new names and 73,507 new features were added. Production numbers continued to drop, largely due to the effects of the pandemic on operations. Most of the names added to the database were for features in Brazil, China, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Norway, and Russia.

To begin a feature search in the GNS database, please visit <https://geonames.nga.mil/gns/html/>.

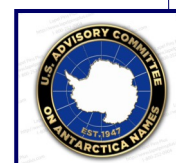
Geographic locators indicate Angel Falls on the Venezuela map, at right (photograph appears on page 3) and Uluru/Ayres Rock on the Australia map, above left (photograph appears on page 7). Both place names were approved in FNC decisions during FY20.





Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names

The Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) standardizes geographic names in Antarctica, an area with no permanent population and no officially recognized government. During FY20, Dr. Scott Borg of the National Science Foundation served as the Chair of the ACAN and Mr. Roger Payne, an emeritus BGN member, served as Secretary. ACAN receives research and database support from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).



Actions

ACAN did not meet, nor were there any electronic votes or names approved, in FY20. The staff continues to make updates to the Antarctic data recorded in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) as needed.

Activities

The ACAN staff received a number of inquiries from the Antarctic research community regarding the process for naming features in Antarctica. The staff continues to coordinate with naming authorities in the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand on issues of mutual interest and the consideration of new names for features on the continent.

The staff participated in meetings with the Working Group of the Standing Committee on Antarctic Geographic Information (SCAGI), in an effort to review and revise international guidelines for naming in Antarctica. The staff also attended (virtually) the annual SCAGI meeting.

The staff is working with the Polar Geospatial Center at the University of Minnesota to improve the geographic coordinates of features in Antarctica. This effort is possible due to the availability of greatly enhanced, high-resolution imagery and has resulted in a review of the process whereby ACAN submits newly approved names and corrections to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR) Composite Gazetteer.



Database of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) is the official database for federally approved Antarctic names.

To begin a feature search in the GNIS database of the USGS, please visit
<https://usgs.gov/geonames/antarctic-names>.

Looking at the 90 degrees South marker at Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica: A view of flags that represent the 12 original signatory nations of the Antarctic Treaty. There is no indigenous population or a history of cultural ties to geography, and many features remain unnamed. The Antarctic Treaty guides ACAN in recommending names to the BGN for formal recognition by the United States. Photograph by Spencer Klein and the National Science Foundation.

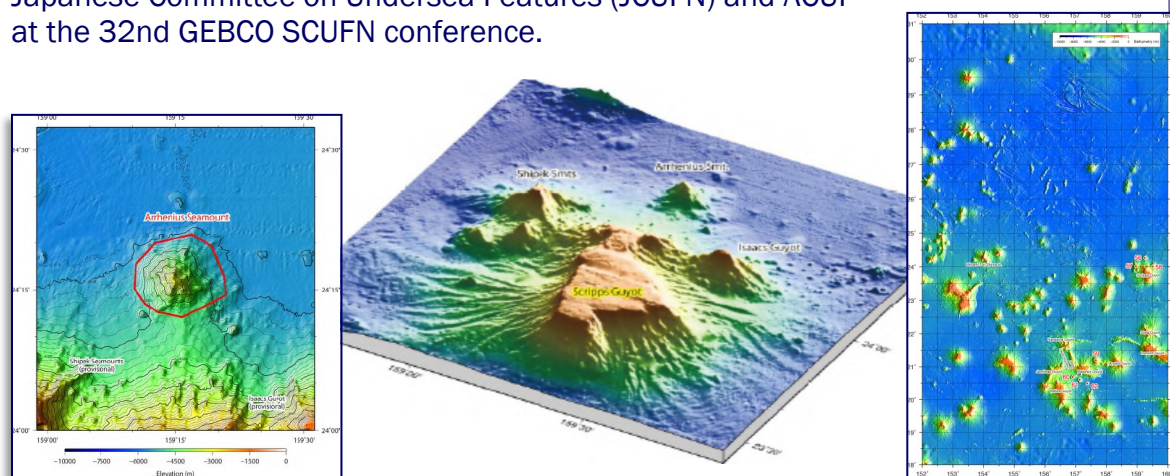


Advisory Committee on Undersea Features

The Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) standardizes geographic names for undersea features beyond the 12-nautical mile limit of the territorial sea of all nations. In FY20, Mr. Gerry Walter of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) served as Chair, while Mr. Trent Palmer of the NGA and Mr. Bobby Jovanovski of the NGA served as Executive Secretary and Secretary, respectively. Mr. Ryan Moore of the NGA served as ACUF Assistant.

Actions

In FY20, the ACUF met three times (ACUF 352, ACUF 353, ACUF 354) and approved 12 feature names, of which several names were jointly approved by the Japanese Committee on Undersea Features (JCUFN) and ACUF at the 32nd GEBCO SCUFN conference.



Looking at three newly named features in the northwest Pacific Ocean: Maps of Arrhenius Seamount, Shipek Seamounts, and Isaacs Guyot present unique views of the volcanic islands rising from the ocean floor. The surnames commemorate Swedish-American oceanographer Gustaf Arrhenius (1922–2019), American marine geologist Carl Joseph Shipek (1917–1969), and American engineer and oceanographer John Dove Isaacs III (1913–1980); also identified as Features “56,” “57,” and “58,” respectively, on the site map above right. ACUF reviewed the new name proposals and recommended them for approval by the BGN Full Board, which approved all three names in an April 2020 decision. Descriptions for the maps shown above: at left, a bathymetric map of the Arrhenius Seamount, contours are in 100 m.; at center, a 3D image of the Arrhenius Seamount and its vicinity, highlighting in yellow the names already recorded in the GEBCO Gazetteer data set; at right, the site map shows Features “56,” “57,” and “58” in red at 24°. Maps provided by GEBCO SCUFN and JCUFN.

Activities

ACUF continued to work closely with the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO) Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) (the international counterpart to the ACUF). Mr. Trent Palmer, the ACUF Executive Secretary, is a Member of SCUFN (representing the International Hydrographic Organization). SCUFN did not hold a meeting during FY20.

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Advisory Committee on Undersea Features, continued

Activities, continued

ACUF has adopted a “fast-track” recommendation process for names approved by SCUFN. In most cases, these names are adopted as is, though some exceptions do exist, for example, when names approved by SCUFN require modification to align with BGN romanization policies (most notably for Japanese names), or if alternative names for the same feature have already been approved by the BGN.

A database modernization activity that began last summer (2019) is tentatively scheduled for completion in summer 2021. The undersea feature names are part of the larger Geographic Names Database (GNDB), which is the official repository of the BGN’s foreign geographic names standardization program. One of the items on the wish list is to enable the creation of polylines and polygons for the named features in the database.

New Members

There were no new ACUF members appointed in FY20. ACUF is currently accepting nominations for a new Chair, as Mr. Gerry Walter has signaled his intent to step down from the role.

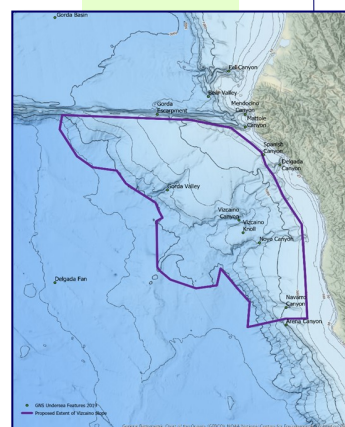
Database of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features

The GEOnet Names Server (GNS), hosted on the NGA website, is the single source for approved undersea feature names. At the end of FY20, it contained 10,240 names associated with 5,331 features.

To begin a feature search in the GNS database, please visit <https://geonames.nga.mil>.

Looking at the undersea region offshore extending from California, Pacific Ocean: A view of Vizcaino Slope, a triangular-shaped undersea feature located south of the Gorda Escarpment and shown outlined on the map at right. Vizcaino Slope slopes gently to the southwest between Cape Mendocino and Point Arena and is incised by several large canyons, including Vizcaino, Delgada, and Noyo Canyons, that feed the large Delgada Fan. “Vizcaino Slope” is a BGN Full Board decision from April 2020.

Map provided by the U.S. Extended Continental Shelf Project, NOAA.





Special Committee on Communications

The Special Committee on Communications (SCC) focuses on outreach initiatives for projects specifically related to the BGN and geographic names. Ms. Brenda-Anne “B.C.” Forrest of the Government Publishing Office (GPO) served as Chair of the SCC and Ms. Susan Lyon of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) served as Vice Chair of the SCC. The SCC’s membership is open to anyone actively or retired from serving on a BGN Committee.

Actions

The SCC meets on an as-needed basis and in FY20 met three times on a virtual meeting platform. At the request of the BGN leadership teams, the SCC formed a team of BGN members, deputy members, and staff to design and create a “Welcome to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names” packet, to assist new BGN members and deputy members with understanding their assignments and responsibilities.

Another SCC project for FY20 was to review and update the BGN website’s printable brochures that explain the process of naming geographic features. As a result, the SCC began to develop new materials geared to specific segments of the BGN community, including Tribal governments, educational institutions, and audiences attending BGN special events and exhibit booths.

The SCC also initiated discussions of SCC action items during other BGN Committee meetings, enabling a larger segment of the BGN to contribute. The SCC leadership team met three times during FY20 to follow up on those discussions.

Activities

In FY20, the SCC leadership team attended the meetings of the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (SCNANTC) in an effort to assist the SCNANTC with developing communication channels to invite and encourage Federally Recognized Tribes to provide input and approval or disapproval regarding: (a) name proposals for geographic features that are located on or near Tribal lands; (b) name proposals that may contain a Tribal language; and (c) name proposals to change existing names that may be considered offensive to Tribes.

Name proposals are received by the DNC for review and distributed to Tribes via the DNC Quarterly Review List. The DNC continuously strives to help Tribes become more involved in reviewing name proposals and the SCC leadership team plans to continue contributing ideas to help the DNC and SCNANTC reach that goal.



The SCC develops outreach initiatives for projects within and outside of the BGN community. Members are Federal employees, subject matter experts, and field advisors. The BGN’s new digital “Welcome Packet” is shown in print form, above. Photograph by Tara Wallace and B.C. Forrest.



Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication



Looking west in Chelan County, Washington: A view of Saddle Rock, a single summit with two high points that form the shape of a horse saddle. "Saddle Rock" was a name change proposal submitted to the BGN by the Washington State Geographic Names Committee on behalf of a Wenatchee, WA, resident who wrote: "Squaw Saddle is an archaic name no longer in use. Native American tribes in the region regard [the] name as derogatory in nature." The USGS staff verified longstanding local use of the name "Saddle Rock" and the Domestic Names Committee swiftly approved the name change proposal in a December 2019 decision. Top photograph by Pictoscribe and photograph at right by Todd Petit; from Flickr website.



The Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (SCNANTC) is an ad hoc committee of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) focusing on communicating with Federally Recognized Tribes about name proposals for geographic features of interest to Tribes, name proposals for geographic features on Tribal lands, name proposals that are in Tribal languages, and name proposals to change existing geographic names that may be considered offensive to Tribes.

Ms. Elizabeth "Betsy" Kanalley of the Forest Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) served as Chair of the SCNANTC for Fiscal Year 2020. The SCNANTC is composed of BGN members and deputy members as well as BGN staff and the BGN Executive Secretary for Domestic Names.

Actions

In FY20, DNC members noted that there had been a drop in feedback from Federally Recognized Tribes since the DNC transitioned to the new communication processes laid out in Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names of the BGN/DNC Principles,

Continued on the next page.



Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication, continued

Actions, continued

Policies and Procedures, particularly regarding proposals for geographic names in Tribal languages and proposals to change geographic names that may be considered offensive to Tribes. Under these procedures, implemented in 2018, the DNC staff sends the Quarterly Review List to all 574 Federally Recognized Tribes upon publication via email to Tribal leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (where one exists), inviting their feedback on any and all proposals contained in the report.

The DNC convened the SCNANTC to examine the situation and to investigate ways to provide additional outreach to Tribes in order to increase their awareness of the BGN and to invite Tribal participation in the BGN decision process.

The SCNANTC began meeting on a monthly basis in June 2020, and met four times in FY20.

Activities

The SCNANTC developed a number of formal and informal communication opportunities. These include:

- (a) publishing a one-time only Federal Register Notice to Tribes explaining the BGN/DNC mission and inviting Tribes to provide their feedback on cases of interest to them;
- (b) coordinating with BGN member agencies' Tribal Relations staffs to increase their awareness of the BGN, and to solicit their support in communicating with Tribal governments;
- (c) attending Tribal events, conferences, and meetings to provide BGN presentations, briefings, and workshops such as presentations at the Forest Service—Tribal "To Bridge a Gap Conference," a presentation at a special session of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), a special presentation to the California Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums Conference; and
- (d) developing communication materials tailored to Tribal interests, including brochures, posters, and web-based story maps.

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Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication, continued

Activities, continued

The SCNANTC also began conversations with Tribal Liaisons from the Forest Service (USDA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Census Bureau to request advice and support for initiating more outreach with Tribes. As a result, several communication tools are currently being developed, including a standard PowerPoint presentation that can be tailored to suit the message for particular Tribal audiences.



Issues

One possible issue that may be responsible for communication breakdowns with Tribes is that the DNC Quarterly Review List is shared with Tribes via a mass email distribution. Some Tribal officials may not be accustomed to receiving valued information in this generic format and may have inadvertently overlooked it. Additionally, sometimes it is difficult for the DNC to confirm that the DNC Quarterly Review List emails successfully reached their intended recipients. Another possible issue is that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tribal officials may be focusing on more critical missions and are unable to respond to the DNC requests for feedback.

The SCNANTC is committed to finding solutions to increase awareness and to encourage feedback from Tribes regarding proposals for geographic names. The SCNANTC will continue to meet regularly until communication channels become more firmly established.

Excerpt from the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) report on page 4:

“There has been some media interest in a name change for the ski resort at Squaw Valley, California; this change would apply to the ‘administrative’ feature, which is not under BGN purview. There is some local usage of the name Olympic Valley for the associated natural feature but the official name remains Squaw Valley and no proposal has been received [by the DNC] to change that name.”

Map at top shows “Olympic Valley” region, from the Forest Service (USDA); map at center highlights bike trails in lieu of ski trails, from Google Images; and map at bottom charts the ski trails, from The New York Times, 2008.





BGN Committees and Members

Committees and Leadership

The Full Board

Chair: Tara Wallace, NOAA
 Vice Chair: Marcus Allsup, NGA
 Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Acting): Glenn Guempel, USGS
 Executive Secretary for Foreign Names: Trent Palmer, NGA
 Voting Members: One from each of the 10 Federal Departments and Agencies of the BGN

BGN Executive Committee

Chair: Marcus Allsup, NGA
 Members: DNC Chair Michael Karau, DHS; Executive Secretary for Domestic Names (Acting) Glenn Guempel, USGS; FNC Chair Marcus Allsup, NGA; and Executive Secretary for Foreign Names Trent Palmer, NGA

Domestic Names Committee (DNC), a standing committee

Chair: Michael Karau, DHS
 Vice Chair: Susan Lyon, USACE

Foreign Names Committee (FNC), a standing committee

Chair: Leo I. Dillon, DOS (until June 2020); Marcus Allsup, NGA (starting June 2020)
 Vice Chair: Inger K. (abbr.), CIA

Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN)

Chair: Scott Borg, NSF
 Secretary: Roger L. Payne, USGS (ret.)

Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF)

Chair: Gerard J. "Gerry" Walter, NGA
 Secretary: Bobby Jovanovski, NGA

BGN Special Committee on Communications (SCC)

Chair: Brenda-Anne "B.C." Forrest, GPO
 Vice Chair: Susan Lyon, USACE

DNC Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (SCNANTC)

Chair: Elizabeth "Betsy" Kanalley, Forest Service (USDA)

Departments and Members

Current Term of Service:
 Oct. 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2021

Department of Agriculture (DNC and Full Board voting)

Member: Emilee Blount, USFS
 Deputy Member: Elizabeth "Betsy" Kanalley, Forest Service (USDA)

Central Intelligence Agency (FNC and Full Board voting)

Member: R. David W. (abbr.)
 Deputy Members: Inger K. (abbr.) and Christopher G. (abbr.)

Department of Commerce (DNC, FNC, and Full Board voting)

Member: Tara Wallace, NOAA
 Deputy Members: William R. Bredemeyer, Bureau of the Census; Thaddeus Ellerbe, NOAA; and Andrew Flora, Bureau of the Census

Department of Defense (DNC, FNC, and Full Board voting)

Member: Marcus Allsup, NGA
 Deputy Members: Nancy Blyler, USACE; David de Hosson, NGA/DoD; Andrew Griffin, USACE; Susan Lyon, USACE; and Marianne Petty, Office of the Secretary of Defense

Government Publishing Office (DNC and Full Board voting)

Member: Brenda-Anne C. Forrest

Department of Homeland Security (DNC, FNC, and Full Board voting)

Member: Michael Karau
 Deputy Members: Meghan Barrett and Curtis Ross

Department of the Interior (DNC and Full Board voting)

Member: Michael Tischler, USGS
 Deputy Members: Wendi-Starr Brown, BIA; Debbie Fugate, USGS; Chris Hammond, USGS; Patrick Mahoney, BLM; Ron Salz, USFWS; Michael Shelton, NPS; and Jeremy Smith, BOEM

Continued, next column

Departments and Members (cont.)

Current Term of Service:
 Oct. 1, 2019 – Sept. 30, 2021

Library of Congress (DNC, FNC, and Full Board voting)

Member: Paulette Hasier
 Deputy Members: Veronica Ranieri and Timothy St. Onge

U.S. Postal Service (DNC and Full Board voting)

Member: Liz Flake
 Deputy Members: Aisha Ahmad (until April 2020) and Earl Johnson, Jr.

Department of State (FNC and Full Board voting)

Member: Brooke Marston
 Deputy Members: Michael Crino, USAID; Leo I. Dillon; Eric Doornbos; and M. Scott Thompson, USAID

Representatives of the Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) (Experts in Advisory Roles, non-voting)

Advisors: Scott Borg, NSF (Chair); Raymond Arnaudo, DOS (ret.); Manuel Castro, NGA; Bob Glover, USGS; Tom Neumann, NASA; Mark Rockmore, NGA (ret.); and George Troop, NGA (ret.)

Representatives of the Advisory Committee on Undersea Features (ACUF) (Experts in Advisory Roles, non-voting)

Advisors: Gerard J. "Gerry" Walter, NGA (Chair); Ginger Barth, USGS; Norman Z. Cherkis, NRL (ret.); John McDonough, NOAA; John Smith, University of Hawaii; Christine M. Taylor, BOEM; Tara Wallace, NOAA; and Amanda Williams, DOS

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#### How To Follow BGN Committees

A list of Members and Deputy Members serving on BGN Committees is continually updated at <https://usgs.gov/geonames/membership>.





## The Full Board and BGN Resources

The Full Board of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names (BGN) is composed of voting members from six Cabinet-level departments, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Government Publishing Office, the Library of Congress, and the Postal Service. During FY20, Ms. Tara Wallace of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) served as Chair of the Full Board of the BGN and Mr. Marcus Allsup of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) served as Vice Chair. The BGN Full Board is scheduled to meet on a quarterly basis and met three times in FY20.

The Full Board of the BGN continues to serve our Nation by maintaining and promoting the standardization of geographic names in cooperation with international naming authorities, State names authorities, American Native entities, and local communities.

One highlight of the year was the centennial celebration in London, United Kingdom, of the Permanent Committee on Geographic Names for British Official Use (PCGN). Several members of the BGN traveled to London to participate in the BGN/PCGN Conference in November 2019.

During FY20, the BGN has seen the convening of the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (SCNANTC). The Committee's previous project was the 2018 revision of Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, in the Principles, Policies and Procedures of Domestic Geographic Names. The Committee will look to strategize new ways to improve overall communications with Tribes.

With 2020 as the year of COVID-19, the membership actively participated virtually to attend meetings and work through the agendas of the Full Board and each of the Standing Committees, Advisory Committees, and Special Committees. The members are dedicated to fulfilling the mission of the BGN.

For information, resources, and links about the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, please visit the BGN website at <https://usgs.gov/geonames>.

*Tara Wallace*

Tara Wallace, Chair  
United States Board on Geographic Names



Looking west in Haines Borough, Alaska: A view of Ayiklutu, a promontory with a traditional Tlingit name that translates as "small point of a larger point." The cape is located at the southern tip of the Chilkat Peninsula where Chilkat Inlet and Chilkoot Inlet merge to form Lynn Canal. The Davidson Glacier in the Chilkat Range appears in the background. "Ayiklutu" was a Domestic Names Committee decision from April 2020. Photograph by Sally; Flickr website.